

Macdonald C. A. Jones,
Lathia Farm,
P.O. Box 1,
Sidney B.C.



BY AIR MAIL

Miss H. Parlow,
30 Prince Arthur Avenue,
Toronto,
Ontario.



CHL

Patricia Farm,
R. P. I. Sidney, B.C.
10th May. 1945.

Dear Miss Parlow-

Your wire & your letter telling me of Little Beauful's safe arrival were such a joy, that I have not been able to bring myself to write to you before. I think you realize I have not an exaggerated idea of its value & quality, - but, personally it means so much to me that to know it is safe in your hands, & not only welcome, but treasured by you, means so very much. Really, I don't want to part with it as long as I can keep it well & happy, - but, I shall always consider its welfare first, - and I believe it could be in no happier, kinder hands than yours, & trust it will indeed repay your generous heart

with all the sweetness² its voice commands.
Yes, I do very much understand what
you mean about the responsiveness
of an instrument. Some are peculiarly
adapted to certain players, & not to others.
And that Little Beautiful is so well
adjusted to your requirements is our
mutual good fortune, - isn't it? Charles
had such beautiful hands, - not large
& thick, or long & tapering, but beautifully
balanced & rather smallish, but certainly
not feminine. One of the reasons I
rejoice that the fiddle suits you is
that you have your beloved Joseph,
because, - I have no reason at all, it is
simply an intuition - I have just a
feeling that Little Beautiful should
not be an "only" fiddle for some one who
plays a lot. Perhaps it is its ready
responsive nature which gives me that
feeling, - the willing horse. So, I shall
hope that it may remain with you
a very long time, & then, perhaps, accompany
your Joseph to other & the same happy
hands. Since you enjoy it so much,
let us hope that this may come about.

3.

My sentiments are not sticky, but
rooted in sound sense. It is a little
difficult to explain, - but, anyhow, as
long as you feel equal to Joseph & B.
and I can possibly afford to possess
such a treasure, I am more than
happy to have it in your hands, not
only for its own sake, but because of
my dear Charles. That peculiar tranquil
sweetness of his own I hear & feel so
keenly in its tones. The evening I saw
you I did not wish to ~~to~~ unduly
raise your hopes. I am not a
musician, but I love music, & have
heard a few good instruments, but none
of them has had for me such a
satisfying quality as this. You will
be pleased to hear that the piano - which
is a Baby grand Stienway - has also a
very fine tone, & most peculiarly adapted
to the fiddle's. Gertrude & Charles ^{with them}
together, playing Debussy or Mozart, are
the most lovely combination I've ever heard.
I look forward to seeing you here in the
not too distant future & hope to hear
their lovely voices together again. Of course,

if you come to the Coast, you will be
most welcome, & indeed your accompanist
too - if he, or she, is an obliging creature
I can put you both up, & arrange
transportation etc. if we should be lucky
enough to hear you play in Victoria.
That is a somewhat lengthy & involved
invitation! - But it springs from
the heart, & I should be hard indeed
if you stayed at a hotel if I
could give you any comfort here.
The whole house is arranged for music.
The whole house is arranged so that it
& built entirely of wood so that it
is a marvellous sound box. When
Gertrude & Charles were at their practices
I would take me into the woods, &
listen happily, for it was like being
in the next room, the sound was so
clear. Gertrude is to be married in a
month to a Seattle doctor - name is
as yet unknown to me, but I'm
supposed to lunch with her next
week & hear the happy story. She
was very lonely, & I am very glad
for her sake.

C.H.L. So far I've not had time
 to attend to the music. But, I will
 find it. Farming is strange & wonderful.
 I have more than a dozen to-line
 documents to fill out, full of figures
 and many other farm papers. How the
 average farmer manages to keep up
 with all the secretarial work, I
 cannot understand. Even the humble
 potato is in tied in to his jacket with
 enough red tape to tangle a spider.
 But, praise be! the potatoes are done,
 secretarially speaking, for May! I am
 delighted the tulips gave you pleasure.
 Those white ones are one of my few
 garden vanities. My cook loves flowers,
 and except for bulbs & roses which are
 mine, keeps the place full. You shall
 have some roses in a few weeks. They are
 in bud, although our spring has been
 late. How very sweet of you to share
 them! You know, - I understand &

am very flattered too. It makes me understand Juliet's great admiration for Miss Varlow. "Wasn't she a darling! One of my Japanese boys once said, 'She is like the sun.' To me it is the perfect description of that rich, warm personality, - so simple, & so full of life & energy. She too would be so very happy to think the fiddle is in your hands.

If I have run on at much too great length, forgive me. It is not often in these last years I have met such a generous nature as yours. The fact that you do rejoice in Little Beautiful, & he is just that. is something more than mere pleasure to me. It makes me feel as if I have gained by losing his actual presence. In any case, may we both continue to love & enjoy him for a very long time.

Please remember me to your charming mother. Sincerely Yours
Nellie Lawrence. *N.L.*

P.S. Yes, please, do send me a wire-
but "collect" when you do play Joseph or
L.B. on a Canada-wide broadcast.
I shall look forward to it enormously.
About the stringing - it was rather
curious I believe. Charles took immense
pains to string it for a very even tone,
& perhaps if you could recollect the
type of strings on it, it might be
useful to you. Such technicalities
of course I don't pretend to understand
& only offer my recollection since I
know he gave great thought to it.
Do please accept the love you like. It
would be a great pleasure to me.

J.H.
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